

Application No. 10/655,566

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A remote-controlled, self-propelled utility cart for carrying domestic items comprising:

a load carrying body configured to carry a household item, the load carrying body having an item storage portion and a component mounting portion, wherein said load carrying body has a manual handle and is supported by a plurality of wheels;

a drive assembly, wherein said drive assembly drives at least one of said plurality of wheels;

a steering assembly, wherein said steering assembly steers at least one of said plurality of wheels;

a receiver, wherein said receiver is positioned proximate said load carrying body and is in communication with said drive assembly and said steering assembly; and

a remote controller, wherein said remote controller remotely communicates with said receiver to convey a desired speed and direction of said drive assembly and a desired turn orientation of said steering assembly, wherein said receiver receives the desired

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conveyances and communicates the desired conveyances to said drive assembly and said steering assembly, respectively,

wherein the drive assembly and steering assembly are accessibly mounted to the component mounting portion so as to be separated from the household item.

2. (Original) The utility cart of claim 1, wherein the remote communication is via a wireless communications protocol or through a control wire operably connecting the remote controller and the receiver.
3. (Original) The utility cart of claim 2, wherein the wireless communications protocol is selected from the group consisting essentially of: radio frequency control and infrared control.
4. (Original) The utility cart of claim 1, wherein said load carrying body comprises a thermal cooler box.
5. (Currently Amended) The utility cart of claim 1, wherein ~~at least a portion of~~ said drive assembly comprises a drive motor powering at least one of said plurality of wheels and said steering assembly comprises a steering motor for pivotally turning either a front pair or rear pair of said plurality of wheels, said drive motor ~~[[is]]~~ and steering motor mounted to the component mounting portion and maintained within the confines of said load carrying body.

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6. (Original) The utility cart of claim 5, wherein said receiver is mounted to said load carrying body.

7. (Currently Amended) The utility cart of claim 5 [[6]], wherein the component mounting portion is permanently, sealingly isolated from the item storage portion at least a portion of said steering assembly is maintained within the confines of said load carrying body.

8. (Currently Amended) The utility cart of claim 7, wherein said component mounting portion is permanently, sealingly isolated from the item storage portion by an integrally molded of said drive assembly and said steering assembly maintained within the confines of said load carrying body are separated from said household items by a loading floor, said component mounting portion being side accessible for mounting the drive assembly and steering assembly.

9. (Currently Amended) The utility cart of claim 5 [[8]], wherein said component mounting portion is removably, sealingly isolated from the item storage portion by a removable load carrying body includes a mounting floor, wherein said portions of said drive assembly and said steering assembly that are maintained within said load carrying body are mounted on said mounting floor, said removable mounting floor being removed for mounting the drive assembly and steering assembly.

10. (Original) The utility cart of claim 1, wherein said desired direction is selectable from the group consisting of: a straight line and an arc.

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11. (Currently Amended) A remote-controlled, self-propelled utility cart for carrying a load comprising:

support means for supporting and carrying said load, the support means having a loading portion, a component mounting portion and a manual handle;

thrust means for moving said support means in a forward and backward direction of travel;

turning means for directing said support means in a left and right turn direction, the turning means having a turning motor for pivotally turning a front pair or a rear pair of a plurality of wheels;

signal receiving means for receiving remotely generated signals and for supplying them to said thrust means; and

a control means for remotely generating a signal to designate said forward and backward direction of said thrust means, for remotely generating a signal to designate a speed of said thrust means, and for transmitting said remotely generated signals to said signal receiving means,

wherein the thrust means and turning means are accessibly mounted to the component mounting portion so as to be isolated from the loading portion.

12. (Original) The utility cart of claim 11, wherein said remotely generated signals comprise a wireless protocol selected from the group consisting essentially of: radio frequency signals and infrared signals.

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13. (Original) The utility cart of claim 11, wherein said support means comprises a thermal cooler box.

14. (Currently Amended) The utility cart of claim 11 ~~[[13]]~~, wherein ~~a least a portion of said thrust means comprises a thrust motor powering at least one of said plurality of wheels, said thrust motor and said turning motor mounted to the component mounting portion and~~ ~~[[is]]~~ maintained within the confines of said support means thermal cooler box.

15. (Currently Amended) The utility cart of claim 14, wherein said support means thermal cooler box comprises a selectively removable loading floor defining ~~[[a]]~~ the loading portion and ~~[[a]]~~ the component mounting portion, said removable loading floor being removed for mounting the turning means and the thrust means.

16. (Currently Amended) The utility cart of claim 14, wherein said support means thermal cooler box comprises a molded loading floor defining ~~[[a]]~~ the loading portion and ~~[[a]]~~ the component mounting portion, said component mounting portion being side accessible for mounting the turning means and the thrust means.

17. (Original) The utility cart of claim 11, wherein said forward and backward direction is along a line of travel selected from the group consisting of: a straight line and an arced line.

18. (Cancelled)

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19. (Currently Amended) A self-propelled, remote-controlled ice chest comprising:

an ice chest comprising an insulated body and a cover, the insulated body having a mounting space and a storage space, the mounting space including a steering assembly, a drive assembly, a power source wherein the [[and a]] mounting space [[that]] is sealingly separated isolated from [[a]] the storage space, the power source adapted to selectively power a drive motor of the drive assembly and a steering motor of the steering assembly, the drive assembly adapted to power at least one of a plurality of wheels attached to the insulated body for directing the ice chest in forward and reverse directions interface with a drive wheel assembly while the steering assembly is adapted to pivotally turn a front pair or rear pair of the plurality of wheels for turning the ice chest in left and right directions interface with a steering wheel assembly;

a receiver proximate the ice chest; and

a remote controller, the controller including a transmitter operating at a frequency receivable by the receiver, the controller further comprising a throttle control and a steering control, the controller communicating with the receiver to direct movement of the ice chest.

20. (Currently Amended) The self-propelled, remote-controlled ice chest of claim 19, wherein the insulated body includes a perimeter bracket, the perimeter bracket adapted to accommodate an insulated sealing floor to sealingly separate the storage space and the mounting space, the insulated sealing floor being removed to mount the steering assembly, drive assembly and power source within the mounting space.

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21. (Currently Amended) The self-propelled, remote-controlled ice chest of claim 19, wherein the insulated body is integrally molded such that the storage space and the mounting space are separated by a molded wall member, the insulated body having a side access for mounting the steering assembly, drive assembly and power source within the mounting space.

22. (Original) The self-propelled, remote-controlled ice chest of claim 19, wherein the power source is selected from the group consisting of: internal combustion engine, fuel cell and batteries.

23. (Original) The self-propelled, remote-controlled ice chest of claim 19, wherein the remote controller comprises at least a two-channel controller, a first channel for controlling operation of the drive assembly and a second channel for controlling operation of the steering assembly.